

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-15, 17-18 and 20-25 were pending in the application. Please cancel claims 1, 9, 17, 21 and 24-25 without prejudice, as Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application. Claims 2, 5, 7-8, 10 and 22-23 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, 14-15, 18 and 22-23 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 11 and 18 have been allowed.

II. The § 102/103 Rejections

Claims 11, 5, 9, 14, 17 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,313,822 ("McKay").

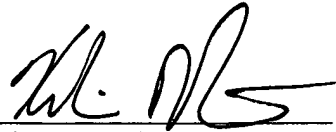
Claims 6-7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKay in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,612,715 ("Karaki").

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKay in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,434 ("Curtis").

To expedite prosecution, the dependent claims have been amended to depend from corresponding independent claims (claims 3, 11 and 18) which have been allowed. In particular, claims 2, 5, 7-8 and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 3, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 11, and claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 18. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, 14-15, 18 and 22-23 should, therefore, be in condition for allowance.

Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Vivian', written over a horizontal line.

March 1, 2006

Date

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